(d) The Airport-wise details of weapons confiscated during the last 3 years are as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Airport		Details of Weapons confiscated	Date of confiscation
1.	Anna International Airport, Chennai	(i)	12 Pistols 15 Rifles 02 Barrels 50 Empty Magazines	15.10.98
		(ii)	01 Pistol 20 Cartridges	21.7.99
2.	C.S. International Airport, Sahar, Mumbai	(i) (ii)	02 Revolvers 01 Revolver	15.7.98 27.8.98

Delay in allotment of PAN numbers

1301. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an enormous delay in alloting PAN numbers to individual applicants;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any time limit has been framed to allot the number to individuals;

(d) if so, the reasons for not adhering to time limit by the authorities to allot the PAN numbers; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to clear the backlog expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) As against 1,83,51,683 applications for allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN) received upto 31.10.99, 1,55,46,795 applications have been processed and 1,41,54,424 PAN allotted upto 31.10.99. The delay in allotment of PAN to the remaining applicants is mainly due to incomplete information given in the application forms submitted by the applicants. This necessitates issue of deficiency letters. In all such

cases, further processing can be done only after deficiencies are removed by the tax payers. Moreover, a large number of applictions have been received in the recent months, which are being processed for allotment of PAN.

(c) and (d) Allotment of PAN to the remaining applicants was proposed to be completed by August-September, 1999. The main reasons for not being able to adhere to the time limit proposed by the Department are given in reply to parts (a) and (b) above.

(c) The work of allotment of Permanent Account Numbers is in full swing and all out efforts are being made for expeditious allotment of PAN to the applicants. Wide publicity is also being given on the subject by the Department requesting the applicants to reply to the deficiency letters sent to them.

Fall in Inflow of NRI Investments

1302. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the inflow of NRI investments has been falling progressively since 1996-97 despite a number of concessions extended to them; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the NRI investments since 1995-96 till date and the reasons for the falling trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) While there had been a decline in NRI direct investments during the years 1996, 1997 and 1998, on the basis of the information available till the end of October this year, the investments during 1999 will be higher than 1998. The decline in trend in NRI direct investment schemes could be attributed to general recession in the global markets and similar sentiments in the domestic markets.